

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ARA-10 /077 W

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P 141759Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8302

UNCLAS LONDON 02370

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: E//WWT, UK

SUBJ: SINKING OF VESSELS IN THAMES ATTRIBUTED TO CIA IN  
PRESS REPORTS

1. FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MARINE AND TRANSPORT  
DIVISION (PENDLETON), CALLED EMBASSY AFTERNOON FEB. L4  
TO INFORM US HE HANDLING INQUIRIES ON REPORTS APPEARING  
IN MOST MAJOR UK PAPERS FEB. L4 REPEATING JACK ANDERSON  
ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON POST ON SINKING OF TWO VESSELS  
IN THAMES RIVER IN 1964 AND 1968 AS RESULT OF CIA ACTIONS  
ONE VESSEL, AT LEAST, REPORTEDLY CARRYING MOTOR BUSES FOR  
CUBA; OTHER APPARENTLY TANKER WITH FUEL ON BOARD.

2. PENDLETON TOLD US HE IN CONTACT WITH UK EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON ON REPORTS. ALSO TOLD US THAT BOTH VESSELS  
AT TIME OF COLLISIONS UNDER CONTROL OF PORT OF LONDON  
AUTHORITY PILOTS. IN ADDITION, PENDLETON POINTED OUT BOTH  
ACCIDENTS TOOK PLACE AT STONENESS POINT IN THAMES WHICH  
HE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF NARROWEST, MOST DANGEROUS  
PASSAGES IN RIVER. EACH INCIDENT ALSO OCCURRED IN THICK  
FOG.

3. PENDLETON SUGGESTED PROBABILITY THAT ANYONE COULD  
HAVE ARRANGED FOR VESSELS TO MEET EACH OTHER AT POINT  
MENTIONED UNDER WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH PREVAILED IN-  
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CONCIEVEABLE. HE ALSO GAVE HIS UNOFFICIAL OPINION THAT

HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY  
PILOTS SUE ANDERSON FOR IMPUGNING THEIR PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS AND ABILITY.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, SHIP ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750054-0950  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SINKING OF VESSELS IN THAMES ATTRIBUTED TO CIA IN PRESS REPORTS  
**TAGS:** EWWT, UK, CIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006